

## REMARKS

The claims are unamended but set out in this response for convenience.

The rejections made previously have been withdrawn and replaced by rejections that are based on the understanding that US 4,063,787 (Bakken) depicts a surface of rotation containing slots that are disposed to provide a labyrinthine load path between the upper and lower surfaces of the device. It does not. The examiner states that the applicants have defined the word "labyrinthine" as being non-linear. This is incorrect. Non-linearity is a necessary but not a sufficient element of the definition of "labyrinthine". As noted previously, the direct load pathway between the lower interface 13 and the upper interface 12 is always interrupted by slots 14. At page 9 line 8 it is pointed out that narrow load passages are shown in Figs 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10. As noted in the following paragraph referring to the load path in the constructions depicted in these figures:

The only possible pathway for the disturbance is through the six passages between the different levels, therefore through a labyrinthic pathway. That is, the two levels of slots 14 perform the function of attenuating the shockwaves attempting to advance from the lower part 13 of the spacecraft towards the upper part 12 thereof where the payload is located, which is rather sensitive to said shockwaves.

The significance of this is explained on page 10 with reference to Figure 11:

Thus, as can be seen in Figure 11, following it as

indicated by the arrow, when the shock disturbance which comes from the lower interface 13 tries to advance towards the upper interface 12, it finds the lower level of slots 14 on which it reflects and advances only when it finds one of the three lower passage areas, see the lower part of Figure 11.

Continuing through these sections and finding the next level of slots 14 preventing passage, one part of the disturbance is reflected in them and another part travels circularly through the structural area between the slots 14, see the intermediate part of Figure 11. When it finally finds the upper passage it has lost an important part of its energy.

Similar results are obtained using slots of a different location and shape in the embodiment of Fig 7 where there is "overlap" between the ends of the slots precluding a direct load path from the lower interface to the upper interface.

In response to the previous action, it was pointed out that the cited Buder reference disclosed only linear load paths and so was not anticipated by anything non-linear. As noted in the passages from the specification quoted above, the term "labyrinthine" requires more than that a path is non linear. It requires that there is interrupted also that there is no "direct" path and that the load path must wind around this interruption. The term "labyrinthine" is defined in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary as "relating to or resembling a labyrinth". "Labyrinth" is defined in its most relevant definition as "something extremely complex or tortuous in structure, arrangement or character". "Tortuous" is

defined as "marked by repeated twists, bends or turns; winding". Copies of the relevant definitions are attached.

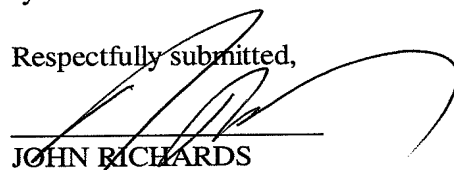
No load path in Bakkem meets this requirement. Bakkem's load paths lie within his shims. Most of the load paths are linear. Nothing impedes a direct load path from the upper to the lower surface. The fact that some load paths may not be quite vertical is irrelevant. They are not labyrinthine.

It is therefore submitted that contrary to the examiner's assertions, Bakken does not disclose the applicant's basic inventive concept. This being the case, it neither anticipates claim 1 under 35 USC 102 nor does it provide any basis for combination with other art to found a rejection of obviousness under 35 USC 103.

None of the secondary references, remedy this fundamental defect in Bakken. Their contents were discussed in response to the previous action. None of them points to the desirability of a labyrinthine load path and so whatever else they teach, it is not the basic concept of the present application.

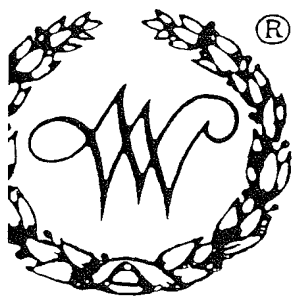
In view of the foregoing it is submitted that this application is now in order for allowance and an early action to this end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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R'S

# New Collegiate Dictionary

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dination of the individual to the state and strict control of all aspects of the life and productive capacity of the nation esp. by coercive measures (as censorship and terrorism) **2** **a**: advocating characteristics of totalitarianism **b**: completely regulated by state, esp. as an aid to national mobilization in an emergency **c**: exercising autocratic powers : tending toward monopoly

**totalitarian** *n*: an advocate or practitioner of totalitarianism

**to-tal-i-tar-i-an-ism** \tō-'tal-ə-'ter-ē-ə-niz-əm/ **n** **1**: central control by an autocratic authority **2**: the political concept that the citizen should be totally subject to an absolute state authority

**to-tal-i-tar-i-an-ize** \-nīz/ **v**-ized; -izing: to make totalitarian society totalitarianized by the military-industrial complex — W. Buckley B1925)

**to-tal-ity** \tō-'tal-ət-/ *n*, pl. **-ties** **1**: an aggregate amount : sum **WHOLE** **2** **a**: the quality or state of being total **WHOLESNESS** : a period (as during an eclipse) during which totality exists

**to-tal-iza-tor** or **to-tal-isa-tor** \tō-'lī-ə-'zāt-ər/ *n*: a pari-mutuel machine

**to-tal-ize** \tō't-lī-'īz/ **v**-ized; -izing **1**: to add up **TOTAL** **2** express as a whole : SUMMARIZE

**to-tal-izer** \-ī-zər/ *n*: one that totalizes: as **a**: a pari-mutuel machine **b**: a device (as a meter) that records a remaining time (as of fuel)

**to-tally** \tō-'tlī-/ *adv* **1**: in a total manner : WHOLLY **2**: wholly: in toto

**total recall** *n*: the faculty of remembering with complete clarity and in complete detail

**total utility** *n*: the degree of utility of an economic good (as article or service) considered as a whole

**to-ta-quine** \tō'-ə-kwīn-, k(w)-q(ə)n-, k(w)ən/ or **to-ta-quin-a** \kwi-nə-, k(w)-q(ə)n-/ [**NL**] *totaquina*, fr. ML *totalis* total + *Sp q* cinchona; fr. its containing all the alkaloids of cinchona bark more at QUININE] : an antimalarial drug containing alkaloids esp. quinine extracted from American cinchona bark

**\*tote** \tōt/ *v* tote-d; totting [origin unknown] **1**: to carry; hand : bear on the person : LUG, PACK **2**: HAUL, CONVEY

**\*tote n** **1**: BURDEN, LOAD **2**: a large handbag — called also bag

**\*tote vt** totted; totting [E dial. *tote*, *n*. (total)] : ADD, TOTAL — used with *up* (toted up one's accomplishments — G. P. Morrill)

**\*tote n** [short for totalizer] : a pari-mutuel machine

**to-tem** \tōt-əm/ (*n*) [Ojibwa *otemam* his totem] **1** **a**: an object (as an animal or plant) serving as the emblem of a family or and often as a reminder of its ancestry; also : a usu. carved painted representation of such an object **b**: a family or clan identified by a common totemic object **2**: something that serves as an emblem or revered symbol

**to-tem-ic** \tōt-əm-ik/ *adj* **1**: of relating to, or characteristic of totem or totemism (as an animal) **2**: based on or practicing totemism (~ clan structure)

**to-tem-ic-al-ly** \-i-k(ə)-lē/ *adv*

**to-tem-is-m** \tōt-əm-izm/ *n* **1**: belief in kinship with a totem : a system of social organization based on totemic affiliations

**to-tem-ist** \-məst/ *n*: a practitioner of or specialist in totemism

**to-tem-istic** \tōt-əm-istik/ *adj* : of or relating to totemism

**totemism**: TOTEMIC

**to-tem-ite** \tōt-əm-īt/ *n*: TOTEMIST

**totem pole** *n* **1**: a pole or pillar carved and painted with a series of totemic symbols representing family lineage and often mythical or historical incidents and erected before the houses of tribes of the northwest coast of No. America **2**: an order of precedence

**TOTEMARCHY**

**toter** \tōt-ər/ *n*: one that totes

**to-ther** or **t'other** \tōt-ər/, pr. or *adj* [ME *tother*, alter. (res. from incorr. diphthong) *of other* the other, fr. *the* the + *other* = *other* of other — more at THAT] chiefly dial.: the other

**to-to** *comb form* [*L* totus whole, entire]; whole: wholly (totipotent)

**to-tipo-ten-ty** \tō-'tip-ət-ən-sē-, tōt-ə-'pōt-n-/ *n*: ability to grow or regenerate a whole organism from a part

**to-tipo-ten-t** \-ənt-, -ənt/ *adj*: capable of development along each of the lines inherently possible to its kind (~ blastomeres each able of developing into a complete embryo)

**\*totter** \tāt-ər/ *v* [ME *toteren*] **1** **a**: to tremble or rock about to fall : SWAY **b**: to become unstable : threaten to topple **2**: to move unsteadily : STAGGER, WOBBLE

**\*totter n**: an unsteady gait : WOBBLE

**tot-tering** *adj* **1** **a**: being in an unstable condition (as ~ing) **b**: walking unsteadily **2**: lacking firmness or strength : INSECURE (as a regime) **3**: tot-ter-ing-ly \ə-'riŋ-/ *adv*

**tot-ter-y** \tāt-ər-/ *adj*: of an infirm or precarious nature

**TOTTERING WAYS OF TUAREG**

**to-u-can** \tū-'kan-, -kān-, tü-'n/ [*F*, fr. Pg *tucano*, fr. Tupi]: any of a family (Ramphastidae) of fruit-eating birds of tropical America with brilliant coloring and a very large head but light and thin-walled beak

**\*touch** \tʃ/ *vb* [ME *touchen*, fr. OF *tuchier*, fr. (assumed) VL *toccare* to knock, strike a bell, touch, of imit. origin] *vt* **1**: to bring a bodily part into contact with esp. so as to perceive through the tactile sense : handle or feel gently usu. with the intent to understand or appreciate (loved to ~ the soft silk) **2**: to stroke or push lightly esp. with the hand or foot (an implement) **3**: to lay hands upon (one afflicted with scrofula) **4**: to attempt to heal — compare KING'S EVIL **4 archaic** **a**: to play on (a stringed instrument) **b**: to perform (a melody) by playing or singing **5** **a**: to take into the hands or mouth (new alcohol) **b**: to put hands upon in any way or degree (do ~ himself before the police come); esp.: to commit violence (swears he never ~ed the child) **6**: to concern oneself w/ : to induce to give or lend (~ed him for ten dollars) **8**: to



toucar

